

Stated Meeting, February 15.

Present, twenty-three members.

Mr. DU PONCEAU, President, in the Chair.

The following donations were received:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

- The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London. Vols. I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, & VIII. London.—*From the Society.*
- Mémoires couronnés par l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles Lettres de Bruxelles. Vol. XIII. Brussels, 1838.—*From the Academy.*
- Bulletin de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles Lettres de Bruxelles. Nos. 1 to 8, inclusive. Brussels, 1838.—*From the same.*
- Annuaire de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles Lettres de Bruxelles. Quatrième Année. Brussels, 1838.—*From the same.*
- De l'Influence des Saisons sur la Mortalité aux différens Ages dans la Belgique, par A. Quetelet. Brussels, 1838.—*From Mr. Quetelet.*
- American Quarterly Register. Conducted by B. B. Edwards and W. Cogswell. Vol. XI. No. 3, for February. Boston, 1839.—*From Mr. W. Cogswell.*
- The American Journal of the Medical Sciences. Edited by Isaac Hays, M. D. No. XLVI, for February. Philadelphia, 1839.—*From the Editor.*
- Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. Edited by the Secretary. No. 78, for June. Calcutta, 1838.—*From the Society.*
- Journal of the Proceedings of the Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, in a General Convention, held in the City of Philadelphia, A. D. 1838, together with the Constitution and Canons for the government of the Protestant Episcopal Church. New York, 1838.—*From the Rev. Mr. Dorr.*
- Sermon preached at the opening of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in Philadelphia, September the 5th, 1838. By the Right Rev. William Meade, D. D. Philadelphia.—*From the same.*
- Twenty-seventh Annual Report of the Trustees of the Society of the

- Protestant Episcopal Church, for the advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, 1839.—*From the same.*
- Proceedings of the Board of Missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, at their third Annual Meeting, etc. New York, 1838.—*From the same.*
- On the courses of Hurricanes; with notices of the Tyfoons of the China sea, and other storms. By W. C. Redfield.—*From the Author.*
- A Treatise on Mechanics, by Francis Joseph, Chevalier de Gerstner; edited and considerably augmented by Francis Antony, Chevalier de Gerstner. The commencement of the first chapter. Vienna, 1834.—*From the Editor.*
- First Russian Rail Road from St. Petersburg to Zarscoe, Selo and Pawlowsk. By Francis Antony de Gerstner. London.—*From the same.*
- An Appeal to the People of Pennsylvania on the subject of an Asylum for the Insane Poor. Philadelphia, 1838.—*From Dr. Dun-glison.*
- Navigation Made Easy, or Mariner's Complete Guide. By Francis Hoskins. (M. S.) 1803.—*From Mr. W. J. Duane.*
- Mémoires de l'Académie Impériale des Sciences de Saint Pétersbourg. Vime. Série. Sciences Mathématiques, Physiques et Naturelles. Vol. III, part fourth, and Vol. IV, part third. St. Petersburg, 1835 & 1836.—*From the Academy.*
- Mémoires de l'Académie Impériale des Sciences de Saint Pétersbourg. Vime. Série. Sciences Politiques, Histoire, Philologie. Vol. III, part sixth, and Vol. IV, part second. St. Petersburg, 1836 & 1837.—*From the same.*
- Recueil des Actes de la Séance Publique de l'Académie Impériale des Sciences de Saint Pétersbourg, tenue le 30 Decembre, 1836. St. Petersburg, 1837.—*From the same.*
- Etwas über die Natur Wunder in Nord America. Zusammen getragen, von Charles Cramer. St. Petersburg, 1837.—*From the Author.*
- Narrative of an Expedition to the East Coast of Greenland, sent by order of the King of Denmark, in search of the lost colonies, under the command of Capt. W. A. Graah, of the Danish Royal Navy. Translated for the Royal Geographical Society of London. London, 1837.—*From the Society.*

The Indian Tribes of North America. Nos. 10 & 11. Philadelphia.—*From Mr. F. W. Greenough.*

The officers and council to whom was referred the letter of Doctor Warren, of Boston, inclosing a circular from a meeting of gentlemen at Boston, on the subject of the formation of an American Association for the Promotion of Science, submitted the following resolution, which was adopted by the Society.

Resolved, That the American Philosophical Society, having given the most respectful attention to the letters laid before them by Doctor W. E. Horner, and to the circular letter from the Committee of gentlemen of Boston, by referring the first letter to a Special Committee, and the second, with the circular, to the Board of Officers, are of the opinion, founded on the Reports of the Committee and of the Officers, that it is inexpedient for this Society to undertake the organization of an Association, such as is alluded to in these communications.

Doctor Patterson read an extract from a letter from Mr. T. R. Peale, dated November 13th, 1838.

In this letter Mr. Peale states, that observations had been made on the night of the 12th—13th of November, on board of the exploring vessel, the Peacock, (place not given,) relating to the number of meteors. The greatest number supposed to have been observed in any one hour was seventy-one. Mr. Peale expresses his doubts whether, from the motion of the vessel on the night in question, it was possible to be accurate on this point, and believes the number to have been much overrated.

A display of the Aurora Australis had been witnessed a few weeks before the date of the letter.

Professor A. D. Bache called the attention of the Society to a very convenient method for determining the magnetic dip and intensity, by one instrument, proposed by Professor Lloyd, of Dublin, and used by him, Major Sabine, and Captain James Ross, in the recent magnetic surveys in Great Britain.

The approximate dip is observed without disturbing the magnetism of the needle. The angle with the horizon, when the centre of gravity of the needle is removed from the axis by a small weight, is also observed, the needle being in the plane of the magnetic meridian.

To the first observation, a correction is applied, from observation at a station where the dip is accurately known, to obtain the true dip. The second being repeated at different places, the elements necessary to determine the relative intensities are known; and the approximate formula, connecting these observed elements with the relative intensities of the magnetism of the places where the change of intensity is not great, is very simple.

Prof. Bache showed an instrument, made by Robinson, of London, of the usual construction, for determining the magnetic dip, with needles for the employment of Professor Lloyd's method. He also referred to a method proposed by Professor Christie, of Woolwich, similar in principle, but differing in detail, and showed the needles for applying this method.

Prof. Bache further stated, that he had caused the method of heating these needles to the temperature of boiling water, to bring them to a permanent magnetic condition, as proposed by Prof. Christie, to be tried by Mr. Robinson. It had not proved successful.

Mr. S. C. Walker made a verbal communication on the parallax of the star, 61 Cygni, recently investigated by Mr. Bessel, and described the nature of the researches by which this important point had been established.

Stated Meeting, March 1.

Present, eighteen members.

Mr. DU PONCEAU, President, in the Chair.

The following donations were received:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

The Life of George Washington. By Jared Sparks. Boston, 1839.—
From Mr. Sparks.

The Library of American Biography, conducted by Jared Sparks.
Vols. VIII, IX, & X. Boston, 1837 & 1838.—*From the same.*

The Transylvania Journal of Medicine. Vol. XI. No. 2. For April, May, and June. Lexington, Kentucky, 1838.—*From the Editors.*